

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, and 12 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 14-20 have been added. Claims 1,2, and 4-20 are currently pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections, Allowable Subject Matter, and Patentability of the Added Claims:

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ervin, U.S. Patent 6,591,322. Claims 1, 2, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Morrow, U.S. Patent Application Publication US2002/0078289. Claims 3-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3, and accordingly submits that this is an allowable combination. Similarly, claim 12 has been amended to include a combination of features that were originally in claim 3, and is thus believed allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Newly added independent claim 14 includes a combination of features from original claims 1 and 6, while newly added claim 17 recites a combination of features from original claims 1, 2, and 9, and thus these claims are believed allowable as well. Claims 15-16 (which depend from claim 14) and claims 18-19 (which depend from claim 17) are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims. Claim 20 recites a combination of features similar to newly added claim 14 and is believed allowable for the same reason.

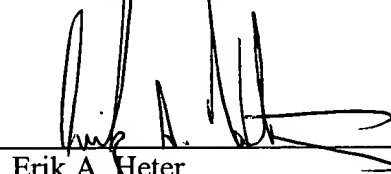
Claim 13 was allowed. Applicant appreciates Examiner's consideration of this claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-47400/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik A. Heter', is written over a horizontal line.

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